

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV .. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Now that I have said all that EchoStar and DirecTV's pro-merger site wants me to say, I will add my own comment.

I am sure all of whom I am sending this to have broadband internet access of some sort, so this may be hard to explain. I play games online, and without broadband access, it can be a less than pleasant experience.

I disconnect randomly, sometimes once every 6 hours, sometimes once every 6 seconds. I never know when it will happen, which is a bad thing in online gaming, as it usually spells death for my character. And these are not ordinary game characters, oh no, these can take YEARS to build and one death in a bad place can mean all of that work is lost. Plus, potential money is lost by this, as characters with enough work put into them can be sold for thousands of dollars (LEGALLY I might add, in case you wish to investigate further. They may say it's not but there are ways around their laws and they could not win in a court of law, should they try to stop you from selling a character).

Also, I am subjected to insane lag, bad framerate. Imagine a movie that's supposed to be played at 24 frames per second split into individual frames and shown as a slide show at oh, let's say 1 frame every second. Frame (Pause), Frame (Pause)... you get the idea, and that's what it's like playing with lag. Additionally, I am embarrassed to have to leave the game to take or

make a phone call, because I cannot be online and use the phone at the same time. This keeps others waiting and lessens my reputation in the gaming community.

In the non-gaming world, it's just as bad. I must wait more than 24 hours for downloads that could be done in 3 with broadband internet access. I must wait for agonizingly slow load times on web pages, and I am blocked from quite a bit of streaming media and similar things that I would like to utilize, but cannot, lest I sit around waiting for hours to see a 15 minute movie.

I really couldn't care less about local channels, HDTV, more channels, etc., though I'm sure many, many VOTING people would (Hint hint, nudge nudge to you elected officials... ignore this if you're not, this is getting sent to more than one person). Anyway, help keep me sane, and make many people happy. Please help allow this merger to take place, it's the best idea I've heard

Sincerely,

Francisco Ross  
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Sebastian, FL 32958